

Application No. 10/004,259
Paper Dated July 6, 2006
Reply to USPTO Corres. of June 5, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 116-011833
Response Under 37 CFR § 1.116
Expedited Examining Procedure
Examining Group 1700

REMARKS

Independent apparatus claims 1, 12, and 21 have been amended to provide that the apparatus includes a turntable for carrying sample containers and incrementally rotating the turntable to present the sample containers at various stations. The claims have also been amended to provide that the apparatus includes a source of deuterated solvent for cooperating with the solvent-dispensing apparatus to dispense deuterated solvent into each sample that has been solidified after removal of protonated solvent.

The Examiner has withdrawn the prior rejection citing new prior art. The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Amano et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,835,707 in view of Cole U.S. Patent No. 6,716,320.

Reconsideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

The prior art of record fails to suggest a turntable-style apparatus for processing a large number of samples to replace protonated solvent with deuterated solvent and presenting the sample for measurement. Moreover, there is no suggestion in the art of record of an apparatus for recovering samples after presentation for measurement and thereafter recovering the sample containers for reuse.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is urged this case is now in condition for allowance.

Applicants request that the Amendment be entered for purposes of appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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